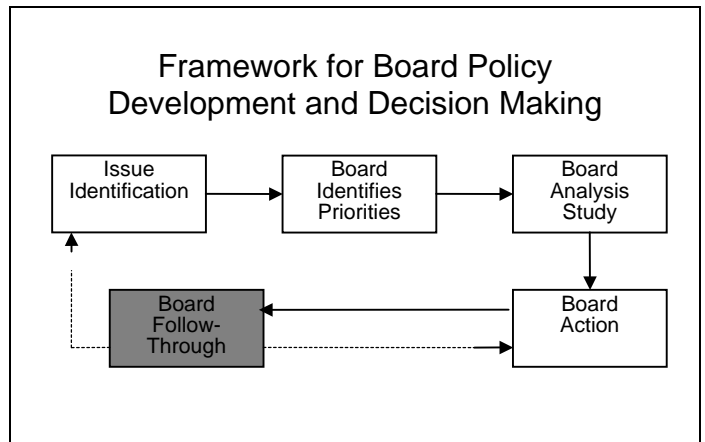


# Iowa State Board of Education

Executive Summary  
April 19, 2007



**Agenda Item:** Iowa's General Educational Development (GED) Testing Program

**Iowa Goal:** 3. Iowans will pursue higher education that results in an improved quality of life supported by better economic opportunities through high skill employment.

**Equity Impact Statement:** Iowa's GED testing program is available to Iowa's adult target population(s) who lack a secondary school credential.

**Presenters:** Janice Nahra Friedel, Ph.D., Administrator  
Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

John Hartwig, Ph.D., Educational Program Consultant  
Bureau of Community Colleges and Career and Technical Education

**Attachments:** 3

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the State Board hear and discuss this information.

**Background:** The purpose of this presentation is to inform the State Board about Iowa's GED testing program.



2006

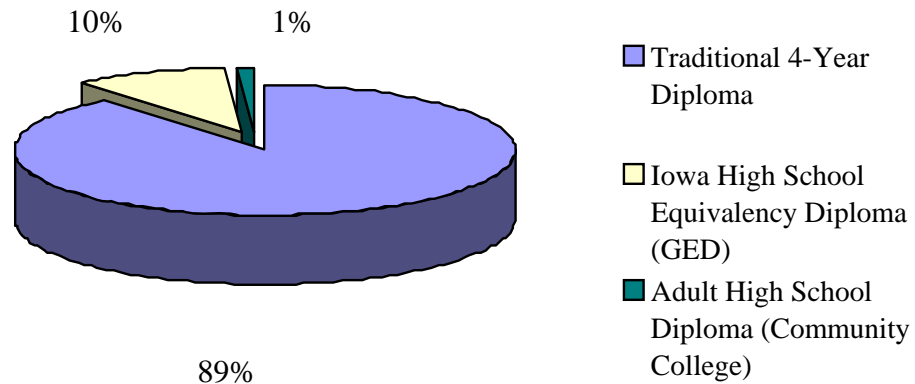
**Annual  
Performance  
Report**

**Graphic Presentation  
of Iowa's GED  
Testing Program**

## Graph 1

### A Comparison of the Number and Percentage of the Traditional and Non-Traditional Secondary School Credentials Issued for Program Year 2006

The GED diploma rate will range between 10-12 percent of the total percentage of secondary school credentials issued for any given program year.



Type of Credential	N	Percent
Traditional 4-Year Diploma	33,547	89
Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)	3,893	10
Adult High School Diploma (Community Colleges)	242	1
TOTAL	37,682	100

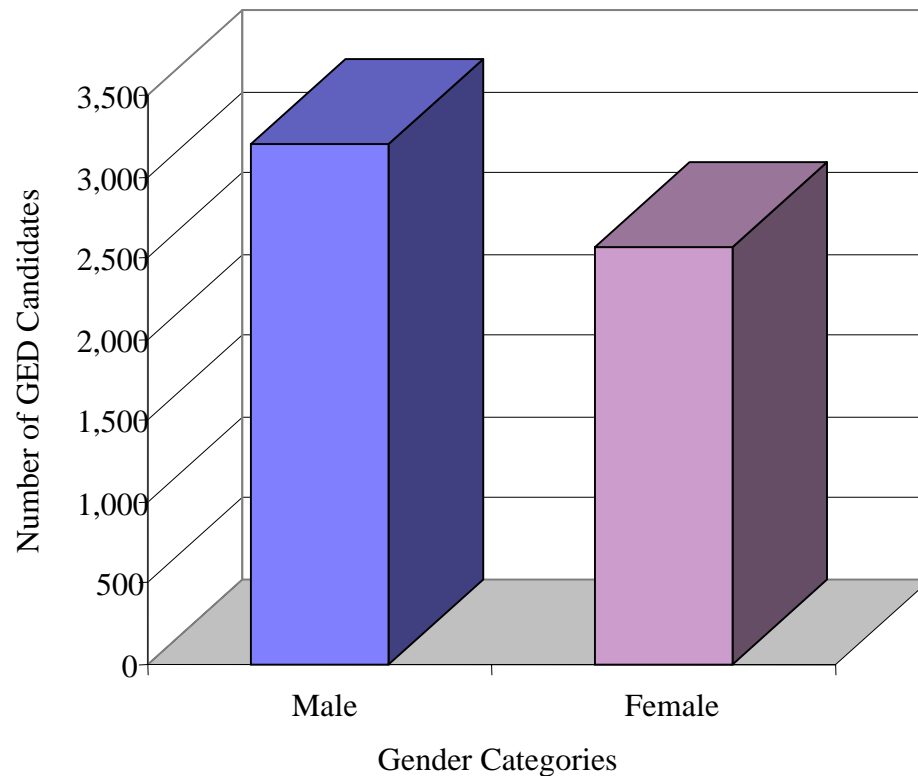
**Source:** The Annual Condition of Education Report: 2006, Table 131, Iowa Department of Education. Iowa's Community College Basic Literacy Skills Credential Report: Program Year 2006, Table 1, Iowa Department of Education.

## Graph 2

### Number of Iowa GED Candidates by Gender Category for Calendar Year 2006

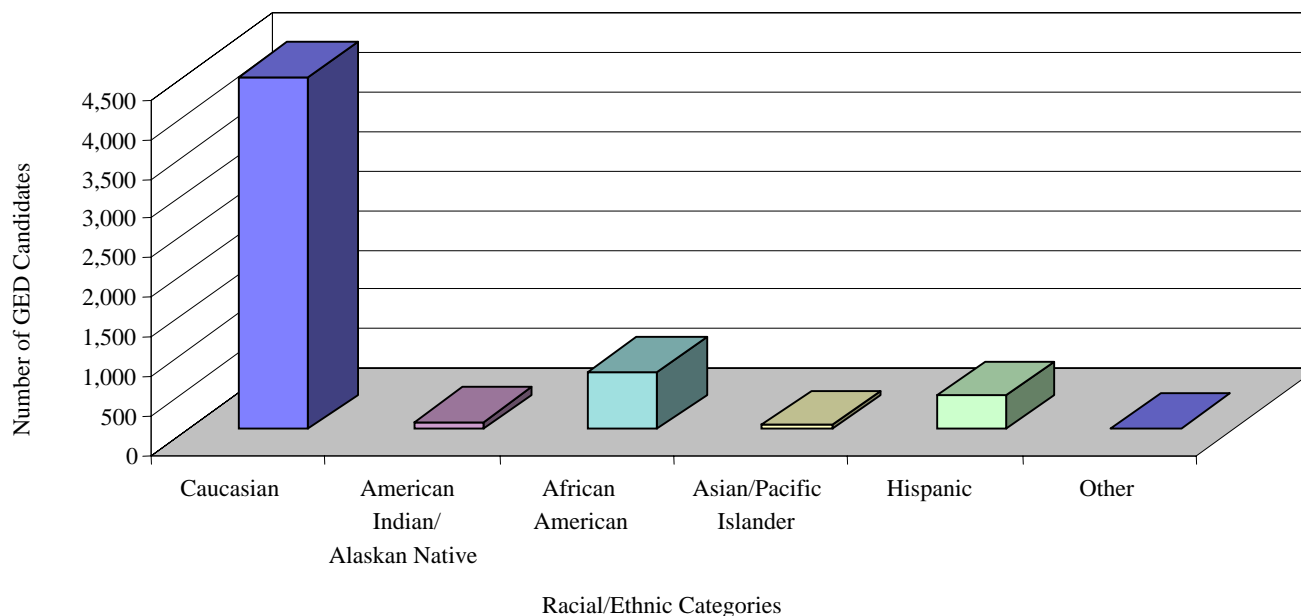
Iowa gender categories included 56 percent male and 44 percent female compared to the national gender categories of 55 percent male and 45 percent female.

Gender Category	N	Percent
Male	3,203	56
Female	2,566	44
TOTAL	5,769	100



**Source:** 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 3, American Council on Education.

**Graph 3**  
**Number of Iowa GED Candidates**  
**by Race/Ethnic Category for Calendar Year 2006**

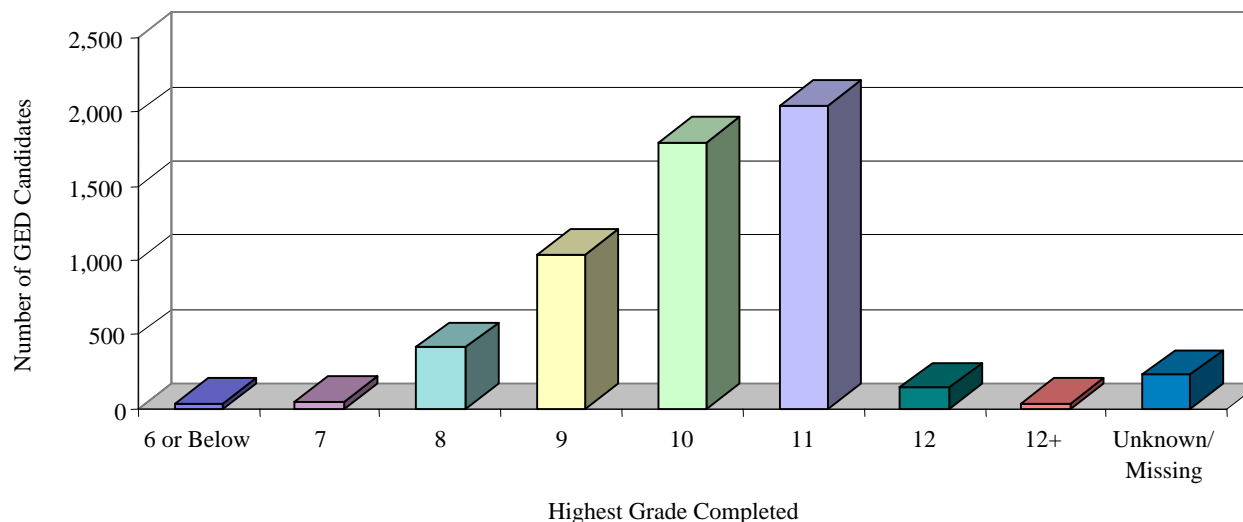


Racial Ethnic Category	N	Percent
Caucasian	4,459	76
American Indian/Alaskan Native	94	2
African American	736	13
Asian/Pacific Islander	57	1
Hispanic	413	7
Other	10	1
TOTAL	5,769	100

76 percent were majority and 24 percent were minority. The 24 percent minority figure for GED candidates compares to an overall 6 percent minority population figure for Iowa's adult population according to 2000 census figures.

**Source:** 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

**Graph 4**  
**Number of Iowa GED Candidates**  
**by Highest Grade Completed for Calendar Year 2006**

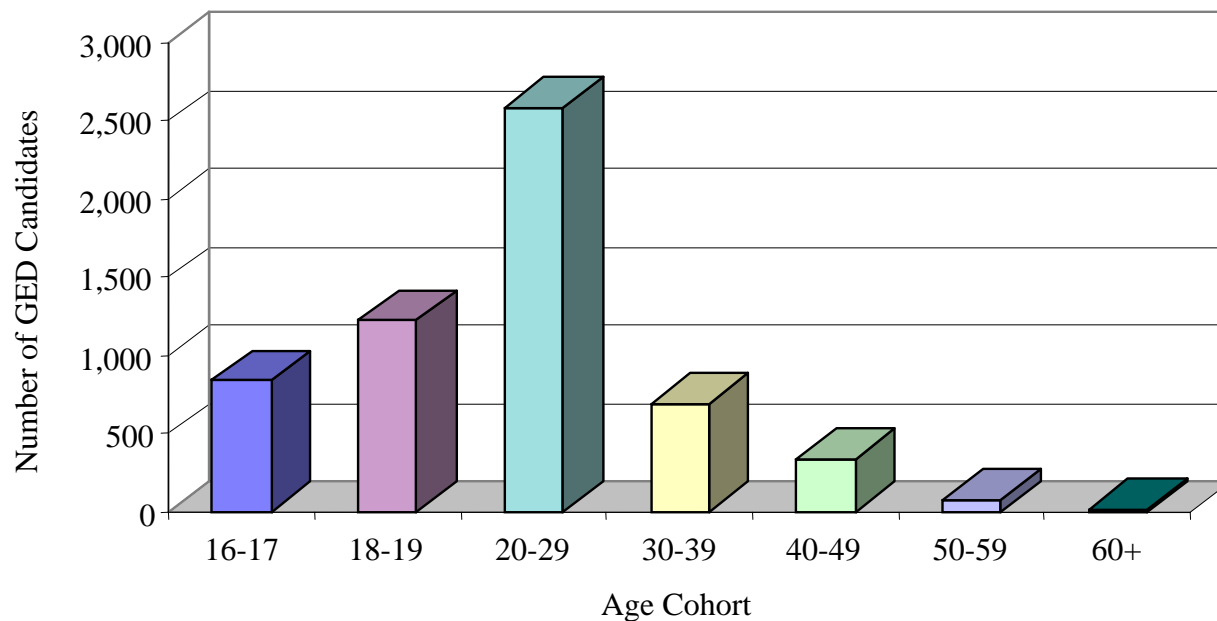


Highest Grade Level Completed	N	Percent
6 or Below	31	1
7	46	1
8	411	7
9	1,041	18
10	1,798	31
11	2,041	35
12	140	2
12+	33	1
Unknown/Missing	228	4
TOTAL	5,769	100

Highest grade completed is 11.0 compared to the national mean of 11.0.

**Source:** 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 5, American Council on Education.

**Graph 5**  
**Number of Iowa GED Candidates**  
**by Age Cohorts for Calendar Year 2006**



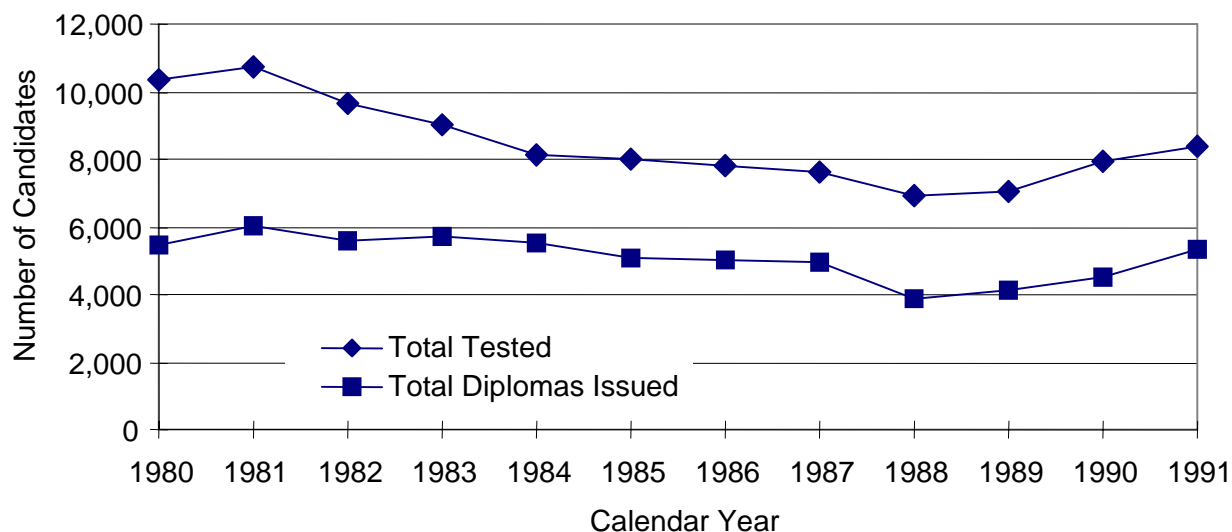
Age Cohort	N	Percent
16-17	838	14
18-19	1,222	21
20-29	2,579	45
30-39	690	12
40-49	338	6
50-59	79	1
60+	23	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>100</b>

Mean age is 25.0 compared to the national mean age of 24.9.  
 85 percent were between ages 18-59.

**Source:** 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education. 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Table 2, American Council on Education.

## Graph 6

A Comparison of 1) Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested,  
2) Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School  
Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1980-1991



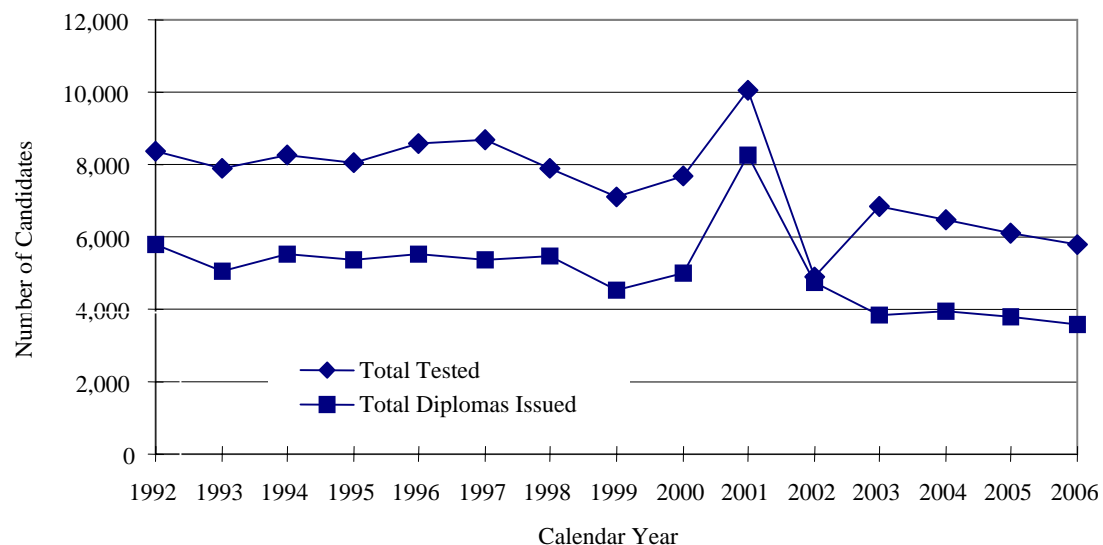
Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued	Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1980	10,342	5,452	1986	7,832	5,036
1981	10,753	6,024	1987	7,650	4,957
1982	9,635	5,602	1988	6,902	3,858
1983	9,035	5,710	1989	7,027	4,126
1984	8,147	5,531	1990	7,909	4,497
1985	8,003	5,106	1991	8,373	5,305

**Source:** 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1980-1991 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.



## Graph 7

A Comparison of 1) Total Number of Iowa GED Candidates Tested,  
2) Number of GED Candidates Who Received the Iowa High School  
Equivalency Diploma from Calendar Years 1992-2006

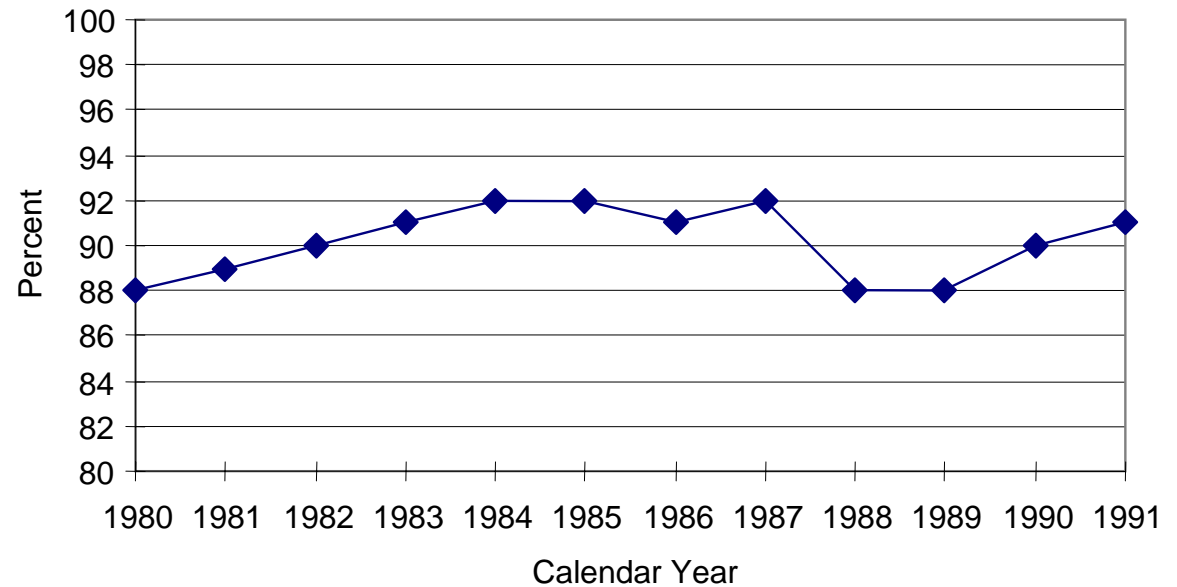


Calendar Year	Total Tested	Total Diplomas Issued
1992	8,348	5,764
1993	7,917	5,063
1994	8,277	5,525
1995	8,044	5,372
1996	8,566	5,525
1997	8,666	5,377
1998	7,871	5,448
1999	7,120	4,544
2000	7,666	4,983
2001	10,061	8,259
2002	*4,915	4,763
2003	6,845	3,845
2004	6,458	3,958
2005	6,109	3,784
2006	5,769	3,592

\*The test volume decreased due to the change to the GED 2002 tests.

**Source:** 1992-2006 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education. 1992-2006 GED Diploma Recipient Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

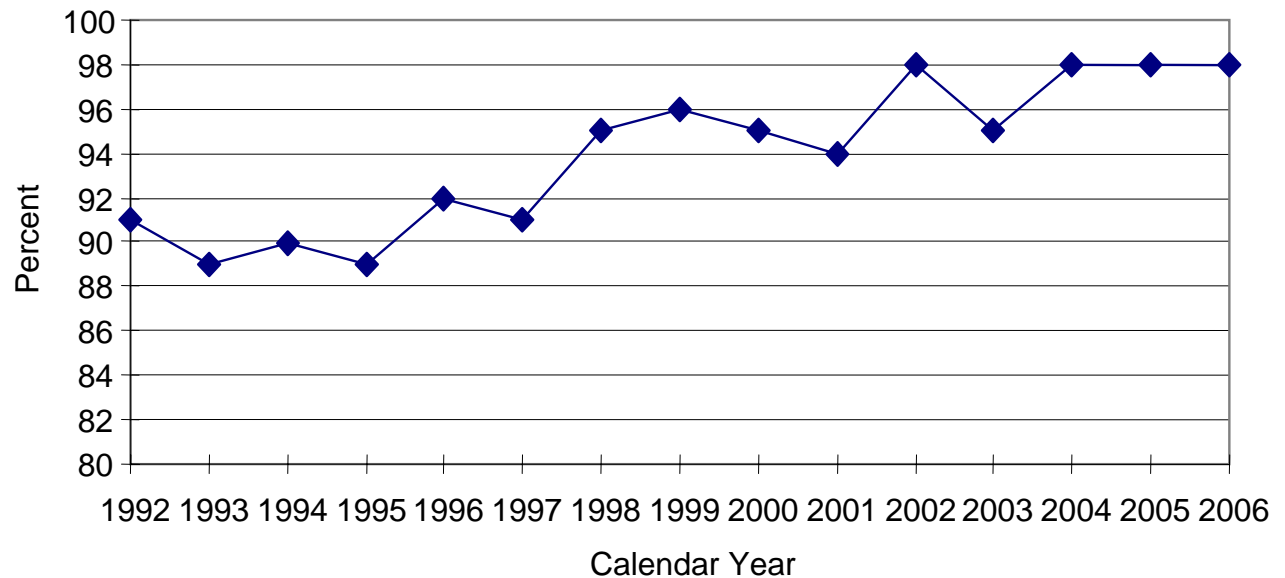
**Graph 8**  
**Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent**  
**1980-1991**



Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
1980	88
1981	89
1982	90
1983	91
1984	92
1985	92
1986	91
1987	92
1988	88
1989	88
1990	90
1991	91

**Source:** 1980-1991 GED Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education.

**Graph 9**  
**Iowa's GED Pass Rate by Percent**  
**1992-2006**



Calendar Year	Pass Rate (Percent)
---------------	---------------------

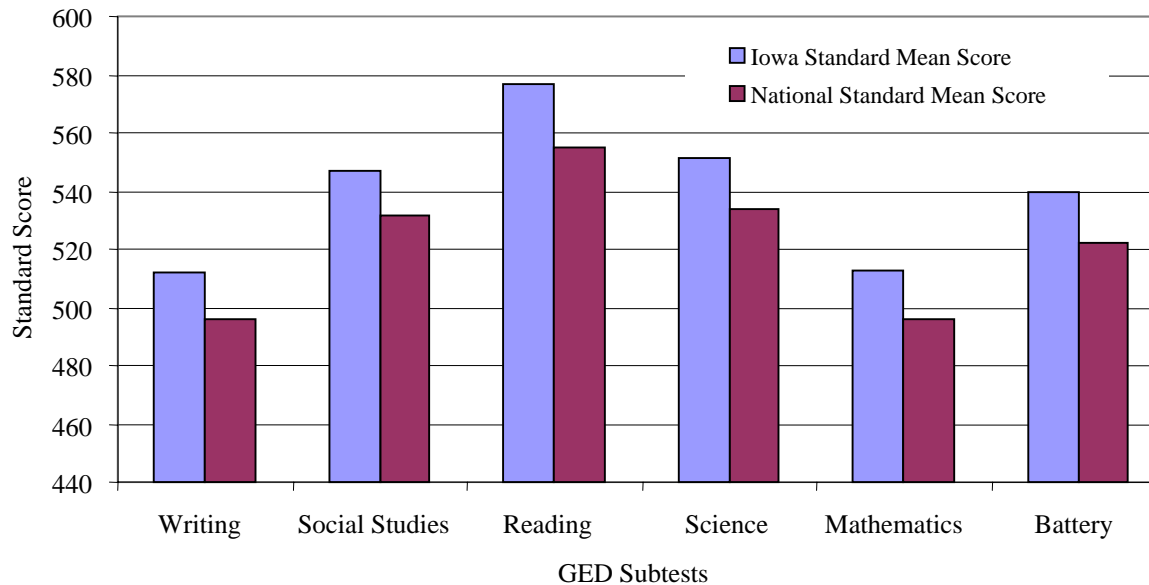
1992	91
1993	89
1994	90
1995	89
1996	92
1997	91
1998	95
1999	96
2000	85
2001	84
2002	98
2003	95
2004	98
2005	98
2006	99

The 99.0 percent pass rate meets the accountability range of 92-95 percent pass rate for Iowa's GED testing program. The national average pass rate is 72.1 percent.

**Source:** 1992-2006 GEDTS Annual Statistical Reports, Iowa Department of Education.  
 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Exhibit 5, American Council of Education.

## Graph 10

### Iowa's GED Test Score Mean Compared to National Mean for Subtests and Overall Test Battery for GED Passers



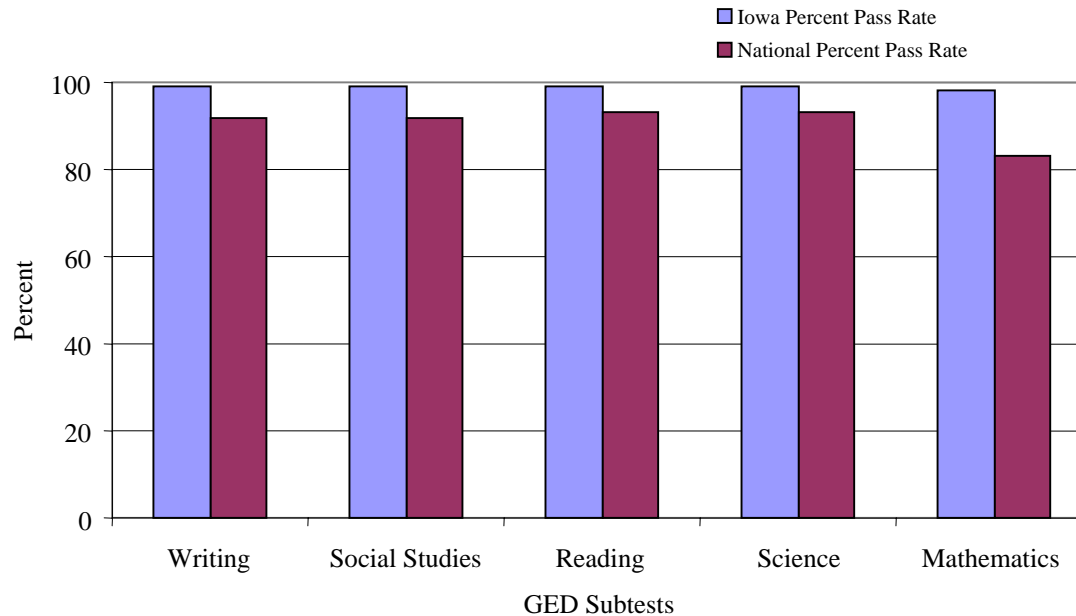
GED Subtest	Iowa Standard Score Mean	National Standard Score Mean	Difference
Writing	512	496	16
Social Studies	547	532	15
Reading	577	555	22
Science	551	534	17
Mathematics	513	496	17
Battery	540	522	18

Iowa's mean test scores range from 15-22 standard score points above the national mean test scores.

**Source:** 2005 GEDTS Statistical Report, Tables 15A and 15B, American Council of Education.

## Graph 11

### Iowa's Pass Rates Compared to National Pass Rates for GED Subtests for All GED Candidates



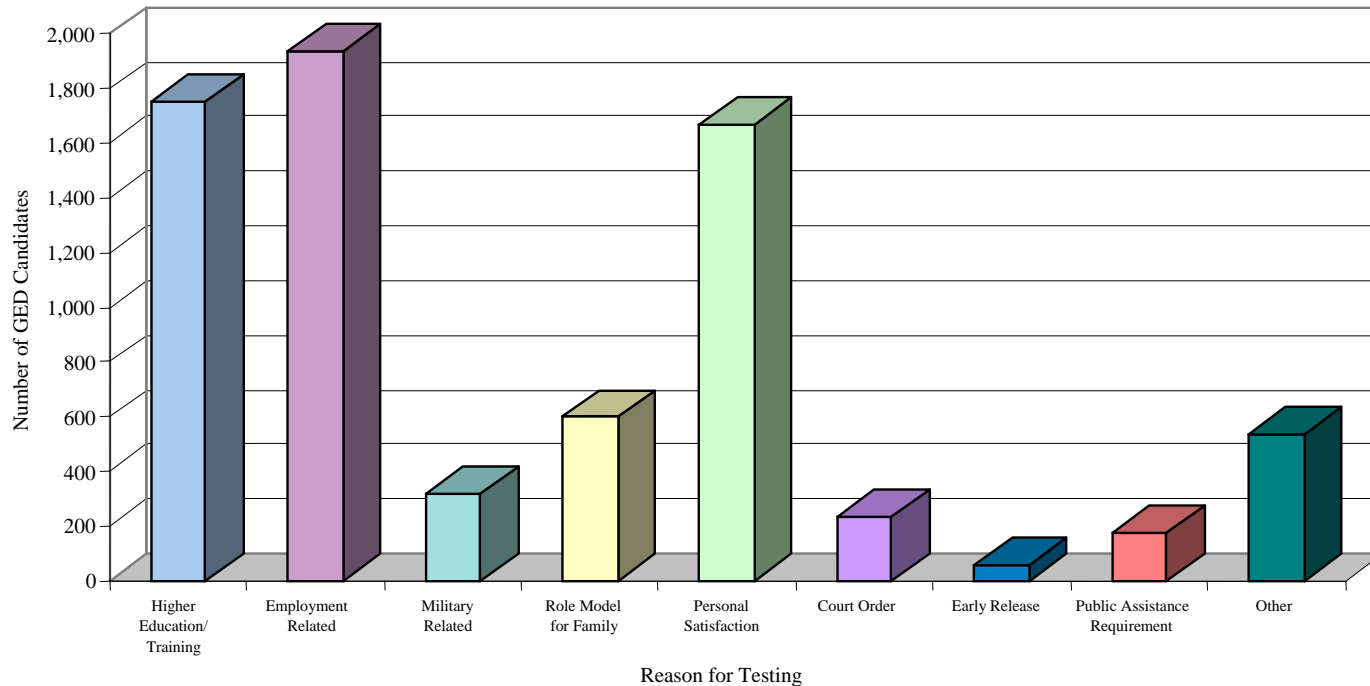
GED Subtest	Iowa Percent Pass Rate	National Percent Pass Rate	Difference
Writing	99	92	7
Social Studies	99	92	7
Reading	99	93	6
Science	99	93	6
Mathematics	98	83	15

Iowa's subtest pass rate percentages range 6-15 percentage points above the national subtest pass rate percentage range. The largest pass rate discrepancy is observed in the mathematics subtest (15 percentage points difference).

**Source:** 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, Tables 7A and 7B, American Council of Education.

## Graph 12

### Reasons for Testing



Reason	N	Percent
Higher Education/Training	1,753	25
Employment Related	1,934	27
Military Related	317	4
Role Model for Family	601	8
Personal Satisfaction	1,666	23
Court Order	233	3
Early Release	57	1
Public Assistance Requirement	176	2
Other	538	7
TOTAL	*7,275	100

The three (3) major reasons for testing were: 1) Employment Related (27 percent), 2) Higher Education/Training (25 percent), and 3) Personal Satisfaction (23 percent).

\*Represents duplicated head count.

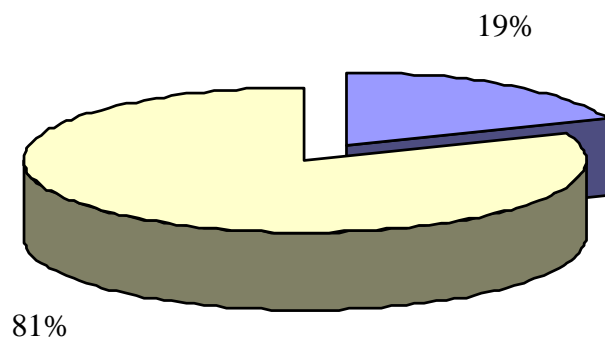
**Source:** 2006 GED Annual Statistical Report, Iowa Department of Education.

### Graph 13

## Total GED Test Volume Percentage Compared to Correctional Facilities GED Test Volume

■ Correctional Facilities

■ Other



19 percent of the GED testing volume was conducted in correctional facilities.

Location	N	Percent
Correctional Facilities	1,103	19
Other	4,666	81
TOTAL	5,769	100

# GED Fact Sheet

- ▶ The GED Tests are rigorous. GED candidates' performance must meet or surpass the performance of 40 percent of traditional graduating high school seniors.
- ▶ The GED Tests provide adults the opportunity to certify their attainment of high school-level knowledge and skills. In 2005, more than 715,000 adults worldwide took some portion of the GED Tests. Of that total, approximately 620,000 completed the battery of tests, and more than 440,000 of the completers (approximately 72 percent) passed the GED Tests and earned their jurisdictions' high school diploma.
- ▶ The GED Tests are demanding. To earn a credential, a candidate must complete a battery of five tests covering math, science, reading, writing, and social studies. The five tests, which last for 7 1/2 hours, also measure skills in communication, information processing, problem solving, and critical thinking.
- ▶ The GED Tests provide a uniform measure of high school achievement. Passing the tests means the same thing in every state in the United States, throughout Canada, and around the world.
- ▶ The 2002 Series GED Tests reflect current high school curriculum standards while including content relevant to the workplace and community. The tests series is the fourth edition in the 60-year history of the program. The 2002 Series GED Tests reflect the standards developed at the national and jurisdictional levels and recommended by panels of experts representing the core academic disciplines of English-language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- ▶ The process of taking the GED Tests is demanding. Candidates must demonstrate competence in lifelong learning and critical skills such as:
  - Solving problems and making decisions.
  - Taking responsibility for learning.
  - Learning through research.
  - Planning.
  - Reflecting and evaluating.
- ▶ The Iowa Department of Education has issued 187,000+ Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas (GED based diplomas) from 1966 through the present.
- ▶ Iowa's community college system serves as the primary delivery system for Iowa's GED Testing infrastructure.

**Source:** 2005 GEDTS Annual Statistical Report, p.1, American Council on Education.  
Iowa Department of Education GED diploma database; 1966-2007.